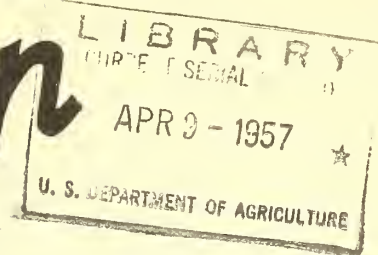


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



FOR RELEASE MONDAY, MARCH 25, 1957

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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FINNISH CIGARETTE OUTPUT UP 35 PERCENT

Cigarette output in Finland during 1956 totaled 7.7 billion pieces, or 35 percent larger than the 1955 level of 5.7 billion. Production of cigarettes during 1956 was almost double the 1935-39 annual average of 3.9 billion pieces.

CIGARETTE CONSUMPTION RISING IN BELGIAN CONGO

Consumption of cigarettes in the Belgian Congo during 1955 totaled 3.7 billion pieces, compared with 2.0 billion in 1951. Domestic-made cigarettes are increasing and represented 80 percent of total consumption in 1955 compared with 75 percent in 1954 and 68 percent in 1951. Imports of cigarettes come mainly from the United Kingdom, with smaller quantities from the United States, Belgium, and the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland.

TOBACCO INCLUDED IN EXTENDED PAKISTANI EXPORT PROMOTION SCHEME

The Government of Pakistan on October 8, 1956, amended and extended the Export Promotion Scheme of October 1955 for another year. The new Scheme is valid from October 1, 1956 through September 30, 1957. Exporters of tobacco, other than Virginia (flue-cured), are entitled to receive import licenses up to 15 percent of the foreign exchange earned by tobacco for the import of specified commodities--mainly consumer goods. Import licenses are issued against the face value of the vouchers held by exporters. These special import licenses are valid for only six months from the date of issue. The export value of tobacco shipped under the Scheme during January-June 1956 amounted to Rs 39,300 (U.S. \$8.3 thousand).

RENEWED GREECE-U.S.S.R. TRADE AGREEMENT INCLUDES TOBACCO

The Greek-Russian trade and payments agreement which expired on December 31, 1956 was reportedly renewed for another year following the conclusion of negotiations held in Moscow on January 19, 1957. The new agreement was made retroactive to January 1, 1957 and is valid through December 31, 1957. It includes 11 million pounds of Greek leaf tobacco as one of the items available for export in exchange for Soviet goods. Also, the Greek Government has requested the Soviet authorities to authorize the additional purchase of 3.3 million pounds of Greek leaf tobacco during 1957 to be charged against the quota specified in the Protocol of August 23, 1955. Thus, should Russia purchase the 14.3 million pounds, it would become the third largest buyer of Greek tobacco and would exert a definite effect on export prices.

Greek leaf tobacco exports to the U.S.S.R. during 1955 and 1956 amounted to 1.4 and 4.3 million pounds, respectively. Greek tobacco exports to the U.S.S.R., in terms of value, represented about 30 percent of the value of all Greek commodities exported to that country during August 1955-July 1956.

ECUADOR ALLOWS A BETTER EXCHANGE RATE FOR TOBACCO IMPORTS

The Ecuadorian Monetary Board on February 12, 1957 lowered the effective price in "sucres" for imports of semi-processed, light, cut tobacco. Foreign exchange may now be purchased for 17.40 sucres per dollar to import cut tobacco, a considerable savings from the earlier rate of 19.00 sucres per dollar. Ecuador received about 250 thousand pounds of semi-processed tobacco under Public Law 480 through December 31, 1956.

THAILAND SELLS FLUE-CURED LEAF TO COMMUNIST CHINA

The Thai Tobacco Monopoly has announced the sale of 22 million pounds of surplus flue-cured tobacco to Communist China. Press reports indicate the Chinese paid a very good price--higher than that offered by other interested markets. This sale will substantially reduce the estimated 40 million pound surplus of low-grade leaf not considered suitable for domestic use.

CUBAN TOBACCO CONSUMPTION UP

Consumption of all tobacco products in Cuba during 1956 was larger than 1955. Cigarette consumption, totaling 9.5 billion pieces, was 2 percent greater than the 9.3 billion consumed in 1955. Consumption of cigars was about 10 percent larger than the 1955 level of 287 million pieces but 7 percent below the 1947-51 annual average of 340 million. Consumption of smoking tobacco, totaling 92,000 pounds, continued its upward trend from the 1953 low. However, consumption of smoking tobacco is still about 37 percent below the 1947-51 annual average of 146,000 pounds.

EGYPT PURCHASES SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF WHEAT FROM SOVIET BLOC SOURCES

During the first 3 months of the wheat crop year which began on July 1, 1956, the Egyptian Government purchased 605,000 metric tons of wheat from abroad (400,000 from the USSR, 100,000 from Syria, 100,000 of American wheat through Switzerland, and 5,000 from Bulgaria). The Soviet bloc wheat will be paid for in Egyptian pounds which can be used for the purchase of Egyptian agricultural products. Most of the Syrian wheat will also be paid for in Egyptian currency. In addition, 50,000 metric tons of wheat flour were bought from Italy.

These quantities, together with domestic production, are estimated to be sufficient to meet Egypt's needs through June, 1957, but will leave a carry-over stock equal only to about a month's supply. The Egyptian Government is considering buying more wheat abroad in order to end the season with a carry-over sufficient for at least 3 months' consumption.

Imports of wheat during 1955-56 (July-June) totaled 486,000 metric tons, of which 470,000 tons came from the United States. Of this amount 265,000 tons and 65,000 tons, respectively, were bought under the terms of United States Public Laws 480 and 665, and about 130,000 tons were bought outright by the Egyptian Government with hard currency. Only about 25,000 metric tons were imported from the Soviet bloc in the 1955-56 season, of which 15,000 tons came from the USSR and 10,000 tons from Rumania.

CANADA'S JULY-FEBRUARY WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS PLACED AT 203 MILLION BUSHELS

Canadian wheat and flour exports during the 8-month period ending February 28, 1957 are estimated at approximately 203 million bushels compared with 159 million during the corresponding period a year ago. The total for the first 8 months of the 1956-57 season includes official customs returns for July-December 1956 and export clearances as reported by the Statistical Branch of the Board of Grain Commissioners for January and February.

Official customs returns showing exports by destinations are available only for July-December 1956. However, adding the January 1957 exports reported by the Canadian Board of Grain Commissioners reveals that the quantities in millions of bushels taken by the 12 principal outlets during the first 7 months of the season, compared with a year earlier (shown in parenthesis) were as follows: United Kingdom, 65.0 (56.4); West Germany, 30.5 (11.3); Japan, 20.9 (17.7); Belgium, 9.4 (7.4); Netherlands, 7.8 (2.8); Switzerland, 6.1 (2.2); United States, 4.6 (4.4); Czechoslovakia, 4.3 (none); Russia, 4.1 (none); Norway, 3.6 (2.1); Philippines, 3.6 (2.9); and Poland, 2.6 (4.9).

Canada's Exports of Wheat and Flour During Stated Periods

Destination	July-December 1955			July-December 1956		
	Wheat	Flour	Total	Wheat	Flour	Total
	(Thousands of bushels, grain equivalent)					
Western Hemisphere						
United States.....	3,141	372	3,513	3,279	725	4,004
Central America.....	49	1,030	1,079	66	755	821
British West Indies....	18	2,631	2,649	10	2,539	2,549
Cuba.....	228	332	560	1	193	194
Colombia.....	-	141	141	-	79	79
Venezuela.....	52	1,911	1,963	43	1,813	1,856
Ecuador.....	799	-	799	257	-	257
Peru.....	210	24	234	2,135	12	2,147
Others.....	1	789	790	-	789	789
Total.....	4,498	7,230	11,728	5,791	6,905	12,696
Europe						
Norway.....	1,963	-	1,963	3,368	-	3,368
United Kingdom.....	42,189	5,015	47,204	51,664	6,275	57,939
Ireland.....	1,342	-	1,342	1,717	-	1,717
Netherlands.....	2,538	-	2,538	7,706	5	7,711
Belgium-Luxembourg....	6,502	39	6,541	8,452	308	8,760
France.....	-	-	-	1,471	-	1,471
West Germany.....	10,229	207	10,436	25,760	1/	25,760
Austria.....	1,739	-	1,739	753	-	753
Czechoslovakia.....	-	7	7	4,371	-	4,371
Switzerland.....	2,226	-	2,226	5,316	1/	5,316
Poland.....	2,404	-	2,404	2,599	-	2,599
Russia.....	-	-	-	4,127	-	4,127
Italy.....	1,825	141	1,966	1,447	3	1,450
Others.....	1,408	140	1,548	1,778	128	1,906
Total.....	74,365	5,549	79,914	120,529	6,719	127,248
Asia						
Pakistan.....	-	-	-	1,008	1/	1,008
Philippines.....	-	2,667	2,667	-	3,049	3,049
Japan.....	15,852	393	16,245	19,623	495	20,118
Others.....	1,491	831	2,322	836	1,050	1,886
Total.....	17,343	3,891	21,234	21,467	4,594	26,061
Africa						
British West Africa....	-	738	738	-	692	692
Union of South Africa..	1,678	-	1,678	950	-	950
Others.....	248	536	784	236	335	571
Total.....	1,926	1,274	3,200	1,186	1,027	2,213
Oceania						
.....	-	68	68	-	35	35
World total	98,132	18,012	116,144	148,973	19,280	168,253

1/ Less than 500 bushels.

VENEZUELA'S IMPORTS
OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Early estimates indicate that Venezuela's imports of pre-served milk in 1956 will be slightly above those of 1955. During the first 10 months of 1956 (the latest period for which figures are available) imports were 70 million pounds. For the entire year 1955 imports totaled 82 million pounds. The United States was the principal supplier in both years, shipping 40 million pounds in January-October, 1956 and 48 million pounds for the entire year, 1955. Other important sources were Canada, with 15 million pounds (19 million pounds in 1955) and the Netherlands with 13 million pounds in both years.

Total cheese imports during January-October 1956 amounted to 11 million pounds, those for calendar year 1955, 13 million pounds. In the January-October period of 1956, the Netherlands shipped 3 million pounds (5 million pounds in 1955), Denmark 3 million pounds (1 million pounds in 1955), and Argentina 2 million pounds (about 3 million pounds in 1955). The United States shipped approximately one million pounds in both years.

Imports of butter into Venezuela are not very important. They amounted to about one million pounds in both the ten-month period of 1956 and the entire calendar year, 1955. In 1956, Denmark was the chief supplier with 841,000 pounds (145,000 pounds in 1955) while the United States shipped 164,000 pounds (482,000 pounds in the earlier year).

U. S. RICE EXPORTS DECLINE IN JANUARY,
SEASON TO DATE WELL ABOVE YEAR EARLIER

Rice exports from the United States in January of 1,109,000 bags (100 pounds) in terms of milled rice were considerably below the record high of 4,050,000 bags exported in December, but 29 percent higher than those of January 1956. Cuba, India, Indonesia and Pakistan continued to be the principal importers of United States rice.

Exports during the August-January period of 13,185,000 bags are well above the total of 11,446,000 bags exported in the entire August-July marketing year of 1955-56 and more than double those of the August-January period of the previous year.

RICE: United States exports, in terms of milled, to specified countries, January 1957, with comparisons 1/

Country of destination	August-July		August-January		January	
	1954-55	1955-56	1955-56	1956-57 2/	1956	1957 2/
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Western Hemisphere:						
Canada	560	397	279	190	19	19
British Honduras	33	35	20	8	7	0
British West Indies.....	5	8	6	82	1	1
Cuba	3,391	2,927	1,816	2,142	208	297
El Salvador	3/	44	2	0	0	0
Haiti	124	5	2	11	3/	1
Netherlands Antilles ..	38	28	17	19	1	3
Bolivia	0	191	153	176	43	0
Colombia	205	13	10	1	0	1
Venezuela	84	32	14	4	14	1
Surinam	0	0	0	20	0	0
Other countries	35	148	27	48	1	3
Total	4,475	3,828	2,346	2,701	294	326
Europe:						
Belgium-Luxembourg	460	298	152	436	1	47
France	3/	78	3/	1	0	0
Austria	23	5	0	2	0	0
Western Germany	38	53	27	2	0	3/
Netherlands	71	31	5	50	0	9
Sweden	72	8	7	12	0	1
Switzerland	53	22	16	51	0	3/
Other countries	97	7	3	20	0	2
Total	814	502	210	574	1	59
Asia:						
India	0	215	205	1,446	0	404
Indochina	0	220	220	10	0	0
Indonesia	0	516	0	4,839	0	89
Japan	4,125	2,383	2,380	92	1	1
Pakistan	0	2,653	0	3,084	0	206
Philippine Republic ...	25	28	22	20	5	9
Saudi Arabia	136	75	54	53	7	1
Turkey	0	3	0	218	0	0
Other countries	11	36	7	21	0	0
Total	4,297	6,129	2,888	9,783	13	710
Total Oceania	19	39	17	23	4	3
Liberia	219	276	100	87	7	11
French West Africa	0	625	200	0	0	0
Other Africa	10	21	14	10	3	3/
Destination not specified	14	26	10	7	2	0
World total	9,848 4/	11,446	5,785 5/	13,185	324	1,109

1/ Includes brown, broken, screenings and brewers' rice and rough rice converted to terms of milled at 65 percent. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Less than 500 cwt. 4/ Does not include an estimated 700,000 cwt. which is the milled equivalent of ground rough rice sold by Commodity Credit Corporation for export as animal feed; nor 966,639 cwt. of supplementary exports by welfare organizations. 5/ Does not include 503,976 cwt. exported by welfare organizations during August and September 1956, the latest period for which data are available.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

RICE: United States exports, by country of destination
and by classification, January 1957 1/

Country of destination	Rough		Milled		Total (in terms of milled)
	Unmilled	In terms of milled	Not over 25% whole	Over 25% whole	
		2/			
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Western Hemisphere:					
Canada	8,429	5,479	0	13,466	18,945
Guatemala	0	0	0	1,824	1,824
Costa Rica	150	97	0	0	97
Canal Zone	0	0	0	192	192
Bermuda	0	0	0	893	893
Bahamas	0	0	0	187	187
Cuba	6,775	4,404	0	292,691	297,095
Jamaica	0	0	0	157	157
Haiti	0	0	0	1,400	1,400
Netherlands Antilles	0	0	0	3,311	3,311
Colombia	1,650	1,072	0	0	1,072
Peru	0	0	0	35	35
Venezuela	1,100	715	0	0	715
Total	18,104	11,767	0	314,156	325,923
Europe:					
Sweden	0	0	0	1,470	1,470
Netherlands	0	0	6,572	2,811	9,383
Belgium-Luxembourg	0	0	179	47,197	47,376
Western Germany	0	0	200	0	200
Switzerland	0	0	0	224	224
Total	0	0	6,951	51,702	58,653
Asia:					
Israel	0	0	0	40	40
Saudi Arabia	0	0	0	1,200	1,200
India	0	0	0	403,825	403,825
Pakistan	0	0	0	205,893	205,893
Indonesia	0	0	0	89,392	89,392
Philippine Republic	0	0	8,523	0	8,523
Hong Kong	0	0	150	0	150
Japan	0	0	450	520	970
Total	0	0	9,123	700,870	709,993
Trust territory of the Pacific:	0	0	0	3,625	3,625
Liberia	0	0	0	11,053	11,053
Belgian Congo	0	0	0	50	50
World total	18,104	11,767	16,074	1,081,456	1,109,297

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Rough rice converted at 65 percent.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

PAKISTAN INCREASES TEA PRODUCTION

The Pakistan tea crop has increased 1,000,000 pounds over 1955-56 to a total of 52,000,000 pounds. Exports have increased from 14,485,000 to 23,500,000 pounds. The estimated carryover was 2 million less than the 1955-56 carryover of 19,846,000 pounds.

During the calendar year of 1956 Pakistan shipped 258,741 pounds of tea to the United States, earning \$129,336.00.

Sources in Pakistan report the 1957-58 crop is expected to be 53 million pounds with 21 million being exported and 16 million being carried over to the next crop year. Under Pakistan's new 5-year plan production is to be increased to 60 million pounds.

U.S. GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS EXPORTS CONTINUE AT HIGH LEVEL

The high level of grass and legume seed exports, which began in November, continued through January. The heaviest shipments went to the Federal Republic of Germany, which received over 2 million pounds of alfalfa and most of the alsike clover and Kentucky bluegrass seeds. The next largest amounts were shipped to Canada and France, respectively.

Grass and Legume Seeds: United States exports, January 1957,
with comparisons

Kind of Seed	January		July 1, 1955	July 1, 1956
	1956	1957	to Jan. 31, 1956	to Jan. 31, 1957
	<u>1,000 pounds</u>			
Alfalfa.....	4,807	4,412	8,336	11,751
Alsike..... <u>1/</u>		142	58	573
Other clovers.....	211	873	1,248	4,856
Fescue..... <u>2/</u>		144	420	2,277
Kentucky bluegrass:	154	487	371	769
Orchardgrass..... <u>2/</u>		0	36	7
Redtop.....	74	80	461	452
Timothy <u>2/</u>		47	555	1,030
Other grasses.....	1,253	1,398	3,859	8,079
Total.....	6,499	7,583	15,344	29,794
<u>1/</u> Included in "Other clovers". <u>2/</u> Included in "Other grasses".				

GRASS AND LEGUME SEEDS: United States exports by countries of destination, January, 1957 1/

March 25, 1957

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Country of Destination	Alfalfa	Alsike	Clovers, Other	Fescue	Kentucky bluegrass	Redtop	Timothy	Grasses, Other	Total
					1,000 pounds				
North America:									
Canada	721		358	19	45	72		414	1,629
Mexico	223							57	280
South America:									
Argentina	2		5	18				42	67
Brazil								1	1
Colombia	3							28	31
Europe:									
Austria	6							26	32
Belgium	33		30					10	73
Denmark			10					2	12
France	711		21			1	3	142	878
West Germany	2,137	109	175		442		33	190	3,086
Greece	95								95
Italy		33					11		44
Netherlands	40		256					291	587
Poland	439								439
Sweden						7		1	8
Switzerland								48	48
United Kingdom				107				113	220
Other Countries:									
Australia									
Japan			4					10	14
Mozambique			13					10	23
Union So.Africa:	2								2
Total	4,412	112	873	144	487	80	47	1,398	7,583

1/ No exports of orchardgrass in January.

NEW ZEALAND MILK POWDER PRODUCTION AT RECORD LEVEL

The New Zealand Dairy Products Marketing Commission reports that skim milk powder and buttermilk powder production are running at record levels this season.

For the first 6 months of the 1956-57 season, skim milk powder output at 71.2 million pounds was up 40 percent over the corresponding period a year ago.

Buttermilk powder production was 19.1 million pounds, an increase of 14 percent over the record set during the same period last season.

Casein production in the first half of the 1956-57 season dropped approximately 8 percent from the record production of 19.6 million pounds set in the comparable period last year.

AUSTRALIA REVISES WOOL PRODUCTION ESTIMATE UPWARD

The Australian Minister for Primary Industry announced February 25 that the wool production estimate for this season has been increased from 1,488 million pounds to 1,525 million (FAS previously estimated 1,500 million - see Foreign Crops and Markets, November 19, 1956).

This increase in supply of 37 million pounds may have a stabilizing influence on wool prices in the coming months. The quantity of wool offered during the closing months of the season is usually lower and this may also effect the wool market. Most industry authorities believe, however, that a strong demand, particularly on the part of Japan, and a low level of stocks in most consuming countries should maintain prices near current levels.

CANADA INCREASES PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS OF TALLOW

Production of edible and inedible tallow in Canada has very closely followed their upward trend in cattle slaughter, which is now at the highest point in many years. In 1956 Canadian tallow production totaled 153 million pounds, which was 12 percent higher than the total produced in 1955 and 22 percent more than in 1954.

Tallow exports also continued to increase, with the 1956 total of 50 million pounds establishing a new record. The principal export markets for Canadian tallow were the United Kingdom, Union of South Africa, and Japan.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES DECLINE SLIGHTLY

During the week ending March 1, approximately 110,000 bales of wool were sold at Melbourne, Newcastle, and Goulburn. Wool prices for some types were lower than the previous week. This marked the first decline since the opening of sales following the Christmas recess.

During the previous week 142,000 bales were sold at Sydney, Adelaide, and Launceston. There was strong competition in the Sydney auction from the Continent, United Kingdom, and Japan, well supported by the United States and local mills.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES

Wool Prices: Average raw wool costs, clean basis, on Australian auction floors, by quality classification.

(Current prices with comparisons)

Type and Grade	Week Ended		
	2-22-57	3-1-57	Year ago 3-2-57
	U.S. Dollars Per Pound		
<u>Combing Wools</u>			
70's Good.....	1.71	1.71	1.30
Average.....	1.64	1.64	1.22
64's Good.....	1.57	1.56	1.13
Average.....	1.53	1.52	1.10
60's Good.....	1.45	1.43	1.01
Average.....	1.41	1.39	.99
58's Good.....	1.32	1.31	.92
Average.....	1.27	1.25	.90
56's Good.....	1.19	1.19	.86
Average.....	1.15	1.15	.85
50's Good.....	1.04	1.04	.79
Average.....	1.01	1.01	.78
<u>Carding Wools</u>			
Merino.....	.98	.96	.80
Comeback.....	.89	.87	.74
Fine Crossbred..	.84	.82	.71
Medium Crossbred:	.82	.80	.68

Source: Wool Statistical Service Australian Wool Bureau.

TURKEY ORGANIZES WOOL AND MOHAIR COMPANY

The Turkish Wool and Mohair Company, a joint stock corporation, has been formed to produce raw materials, mainly merino wool for the domestic industry, and to work with other organizations in the wool and mohair industry. It also plans to encourage production of better quality raw materials by offering premiums and rewards, and to improve marketing plans credit and research facilities. The company will raise its own sheep and Angora goats, and provide service to other growers.

U. S. MEAT IMPORTS SMALLEST SINCE 1950

The United States' imports of meat during 1956 totaled 258 million pounds (product weight), 30 million less than a year earlier and the smallest since 1950. The small imports reflected the large domestic meat supplies and the relatively low meat prices. Imports included a large proportion of canned beef, and canned hams and shoulders.

Imports of 112 million pounds of beef and veal in 1956 were moderately below 1955 and the smallest since 1947. Imports of canned beef from Argentina and Brazil dropped materially in 1956, but imports from Uruguay increased considerably. Paraguay exported 1.3 million pounds of canned beef to the United States, the largest quantity since 1952. There was an increase in shipments of boneless beef from Canada, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand to the United States in 1956, but shipments from Mexico declined. Most of the cured and pickled beef entered from Argentina.

Pork imports in 1956 were at fairly high levels, but considerably smaller than in the previous 2 years. Of the 139.6 million pounds of pork imported in 1956, 90.5 million were canned hams and shoulders. Imports from the Netherlands and Poland were greater than in 1955 but imports from Canada, Denmark and West Germany were smaller. There was a moderate decline in imports of fresh and frozen pork from Canada. Imports of pickled or salted pork products from the Netherlands, Canada and Poland declined moderately.

Imports of lamb and mutton in 1956 were the lowest since 1947. The decline from 2.2 million pounds in 1955 to 1.4 million in 1956 was due to smaller shipments from Australia and New Zealand.

There was little change in United States' imports of other canned and preserved meats in 1956. Of the 5.5 million pounds imported about 4.2 million entered from Argentina.

UNITED STATES: Imports of meat and meat products, 1951-56

(Product weight basis)

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
	- - - - 1,000 pounds - - - -					
<u>Beef & Veal</u>						
Fresh, chilled or frozen beef..	86,714	71,971	26,692	7,520	6,113	5,140
Fresh, chilled or frozen veal..	7,298	98	447	1,048	275	245
Canned beef.....	153,904	120,181	100,098	85,244	87,120	72,727
Pickled and cured beef.....	65,093	60,519	12,796	23,234	5,231	8,304
Boneless beef.....	1/11,139	1/31,528	1/20,066	8,646	19,775	25,444
Total beef and veal.....	324,148	284,297	160,099	125,692	118,514	111,860
<u>Pork</u>						
Fresh, chilled or frozen.....	9,833	3,185	36,651	44,746	41,745	32,962
Hams, shoulders and bacon 2/..	37,622	57,193	106,106	112,574	107,348	94,775
Other pickled or salted.....	941	969	2,524	12,404	12,584	11,119
Sausage except fresh.....	557	664	745	603	562	708
Total pork.....	48,953	62,011	146,026	170,327	162,239	139,564
<u>Lamb and Mutton</u>						
Fresh, chilled or frozen.....	6,736	6,156	3,123	2,067	2,252	1,372
<u>Other canned, prepared or preserved meat</u>	3/ 3,909	3/ 4,128	3/ 3,219	4,613	5,303	5,532
Total meat imports.....	383,746	356,592	312,467	302,699	288,308	258,328

1/ Includes estimated amounts classified as other canned, prepared or preserved meat.

2/ Including canned.

3/ Excludes estimated amounts of boneless beef which are included with beef and veal as noted in footnote 1.

YUGOSLAVIA'S LARD
PRODUCTION DECLINES

Production of lard in Yugoslavia in 1956 is estimated at 220 million pounds, a drop of approximately 15 percent from the 257 million pounds produced in 1955. This decline was due to Yugoslav policy of encouraging production of meat-type hogs as well as the marketing of hogs at lower weights. With this same policy in effect during the coming year, it is expected that lard import requirements will increase.

LARD AND TALLOW SITUATION IN CUBA

Cuban lard imports in 1956, all of which were supplied by the United States, were slightly less than in 1955 but larger than for any other year since 1952. The 1956 imports totaled 166 million pounds compared with 169 million pounds for 1955. Approximately 96 percent of the lard imports were received in bulk in railroad tank cars transported by ferry from Florida. The lard was then packaged locally and sold under Cuban brand names. The remainder of the lard was received either in drums or tins.

Wholesale prices for lard on the Havana market in 1956 ranged from a low of \$16.50 per Spanish quintal in January to a high of \$22.25 in December (16.3 - 21.9 cents per pound). These prices were approximately the same as in 1955.

With prospects of a slightly better general economic situation in Cuba in 1957 and carry-over stocks on December 31, 1956 slightly lower than a year earlier, Cuban imports of United States lard during 1957 will probably exceed those of 1956. Although local production of lard in 1957 is expected to increase slightly, it is not expected to have any significant effect on the domestic market situation.

Imports of inedible tallow in 1956 totaled 40 million pounds, approximately 39 percent more than the 29 million pounds received in 1955. All shipments in both years came from the United States.

Inedible tallow prices in 1956 ranged from \$9.25 to \$9.81 per Spanish quintal (9.1 - 9.7 cents per pound) for domestic tallow, and from \$8.50 to \$9.81 per quintal (8.4 - 9.7 cents per pound) for the imported product.

Imports of inedible tallow for 1957 are expected to be lower than in 1956. This is attributed to the fact that carry-over stocks were about 5.5 million pounds higher than those for the previous year.

Consumption of inedible tallow by local soap manufacturers increased substantially in 1956 as a result of an extensive advertising campaign which increased the domestic consumption of local brands of soap.

IRELAND FINDS NEW OUTLETS FOR BEEF AND FAT CATTLE

The 1957 outlook for exports of cattle and beef from Ireland is fairly good, if increased exports to countries outside the United Kingdom can be maintained. This trade is now severely hampered by the lack of shipping space and high transportation costs.

Exports of fat cattle from Ireland rose from 139,000 head in 1955 to 180,000 in 1956. The larger exports were entirely due to greater shipments to France, Holland, West Germany, Spain and other continental markets. Many of the animals exported were originally intended for the U.K. market, but were shipped to the Continent when prices in the U.K. fell sharply last fall.

Exports of beef and veal from Ireland declined slightly in 1956, because of smaller shipments to the United Kingdom. The U.K. constituted 84 percent of the foreign market in 1955 but only 66 percent in 1956. Exports to other destinations rose from 16 percent of the total in 1955 to 34 percent in 1956.

Exports of Irish feeder cattle to the U.K. may show another moderate increase in 1957. Exports of feeders rose from 470,949 head in 1955 to 487,559 in 1956. The large subsidies paid to cattle producers are helping to maintain demand for replacement cattle in the United Kingdom.

IRELAND: Exports of beef and veal and fat cattle 1955-56

Country	Beef and Veal				Fat Cattle			
	1955	Per- cent	1956	Per- cent	1955	Per- cent	1956	Per- cent
	<u>Mil. lbs.</u>		<u>Mil. lbs.</u>		<u>1,000 Head</u>		<u>1,000 Head</u>	
United Kingdom...	54.0	84	37.9	66	130	94	112	62
Other.....	10.6	16	19.4	34	9	6	68	38
Total...	64.6	100	57.3	100	139	100	180	100

CANADIAN HOG SLAUGHTER TO DROP DURING 1957

Recent forecasts by the Canadian Department of Agriculture placed inspected hog slaughter at 5,496,000 head for 1957. This is an 8 per-cent drop from the 1956 total of 5,959,605 head and a reflection of reduced farrowings during 1956. Although farrowings are expected to rise during the 1957 spring season, this will have little effect on slaughter before 1958. Inspected slaughter is expected to drop 11 percent during the first quarter, 10 percent during the second quarter, and 4 percent during the last half of 1957 from the same period last year. January slaughter was 18 percent below January 1956.

CANADA: Inspected hog slaughter 1955-56 and estimated 1957

Period	1955	1956	1957	
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>Percent change</u>
				<u>from 1956</u>
Jan.-Mar.....	1,489	1,637	1,453	-11
Apr.-June.....	1,466	1,575	1,413	-10
July-Dec.....	2,901	2,747	2,631	- 4
Total Year...	5,917	5,959	5,496	- 8

Although hog slaughter is expected to fall during 1957, domestic pork consumption, which rose 4 percent during 1956, is expected to continue to increase. This would necessitate a reduction in pork exports. During 1956 the United States, which takes about 80 per-cent of Canada's pork exports, imported 51.2 million pounds of pork and pork products from Canada.

Canadian hog prices declined sharply in late 1955 and early 1956. Hog feed price ratios were below average and hog production became relatively unprofitable. After reaching a low in early 1956 hog prices increased sharply.

In early March 1957 prices of B 1 dressed hog carcasses at lead-ing markets ranged from \$26.50 to \$30.25 per 100 pounds and were \$7 to \$8 above a year earlier. In late February the hog-barley price ratio (Winnipeg) was 27.1 compared with 16.6 a year earlier. The average for the years 1937-56 was 19.7.

AUSTRALIAN DRIED FRUIT SITUATION SUMMARIZED

Production of dried vine fruits in Australia for the 1957 season is forecast at 82,500 short tons. The 1957 estimate is predicated upon the present size and quality of the fresh fruit crops, since harvesting is just getting under way and final production is closely linked to prevailing weather during the drying season.

The sultana crop, most important of the Australian dried vine crops, is expected to be light, largely due to insect infestation. The crop is also known to be 2 weeks later than usual and has been forecast at 62,000 short tons. The 1957 estimate for sultana outturn is substantially larger than the very short 1956 crop, though below the normal tonnage of recent seasons.

The currant crop for 1957 is expected to be much less than last year, because of rain damage in January, particularly in the Mildura area. The raisin (lexia) crop, though below average, is reported as larger than that of the previous season.

Table 1 - Dried vine fruits: Australian production, by types, annual 1955 and 1956, forecast 1957

Type of fruit	1955	1956	1957 (forecast)
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Currants.....	12,700	15,200	11,000
Sultanas.....	66,700	46,400	62,000
Raisins.....	10,000	5,700	9,500
Totals.....	89,400	67,200	82,500

The 1956 season was excellent for currant production, but heavy losses were suffered by sultana and lexia growers from mold which developed during the drying period. Total production of these 2 fruits amounted to only 52,100 short tons in 1956 compared with 76,700 tons in 1955. The smaller production was primarily reflected in reduced exports, which were one-third lower than in 1955. Early commitments to Canadian and New Zealand markets maintained the volume of the previous year, but shipments to the United Kingdom were sharply reduced and less than half those of a year earlier.

During the latter part of the 1956 marketing year, prices for Australian dried vine fruits reached record levels in the U.K. market, and average returns for the season were well above those of a year ago. In comparison, the returns from the Canadian and New Zealand

markets were much lower, since prices were fixed at an early date before the shortages developed. The outlook for good prices in the U. K. market is encouraging as all stocks of the old season's dried fruit have been cleared.

Production of dried tree fruits, with the exception of apples and prunes, was considerably lower in 1956 than the yields of the previous year. Reduced production of apricots and peaches occurred when losses from brown rot cut the supplies available for drying. The reduced supplies also brought about increased competition from canneries and the fresh fruit market. Greater quantities of dried apples and prunes resulted from a bumper apple crop and fairly good prune crop.

Table 2 - Dried tree fruit: Australian production, by type, annual 1955 and 1956

Type of fruit	1955	1956
	Short tons	Short tons
Dried apples.....1/	738	952
Dried apricots.....	1,855	1,375
Dried peaches.....	627	288
Dried pears.....	66	60
Dried nectarines.....	54	41
Dried prunes (dry weight).....	2,695	3,205
Total.....	6,035	5,921

1/ Above data for dried apple production are on a fiscal year-basis; other data in the table are presented on a seasonal basis.

Exports of dried tree fruits in 1956 were substantially smaller than for 1955, with the possible exception of dried apples. Most of the dried peach and apricot exports went to the United Kingdom and New Zealand. Dried prune exports were also off in 1956, despite increased shipments to New Zealand, Denmark, and Jamaica.

Table 3 - Dried tree fruits: Australian exports, by type, calendar years 1955 and 1956

Type of fruit	1955	1956
	Short tons	Short tons
Dried apples.....	110	804
Dried apricots.....	1,072	402
Dried peaches.....	228	197
Dried prunes.....	637	496

INDIAN CASHEW IMPORT SITUATION IMPROVES

The High Court of Kerala State, India, reversed itself on March 4 by declaring the Indian cashew processing industry a seasonal operation. The new ruling is expected to reopen the factories which had closed in protest of the rule requiring owners to pay wages when the plants were not operating.

The African cashew crop, estimated at 95,000 short tons in-shell, is rated of good quality. Shipments of raw seeds amounting to 27,000 short tons have already reached India. Purchase commitments have also been made for an additional 27,000 tons. Total imports of 85,000 short tons are now foreseen. Latest reports place the Indian cashew crop at 95 percent of the earlier estimates, or 67,000 short tons. The larger imports from East Africa would compensate for the smaller Indian production.

As of March 8, Indian merchants were paying approximately $6\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound for imported raw cashews. The export price for size 320 kernels, March shipment, is 49 cents per pound; for April/June shipments, the price is 45 cents per pound.

SOUTH AFRICAN DRIED APRICOT AND PRUNE PROSPECTS BELOW AVERAGE

The apricot crop in the Wellington district, the principal producing area in South Africa, is small in size and below standard in quality due to excessive moisture during the growing season. Apricot growers hope to offset lower prices offered by canners for under-grade stock through drying. Last season better than 80 percent of growers' apricots qualified as first grade, but the average in first grade for this season appears to be between 35 and 60 percent. In 1955, South Africa exported 641 short tons of dried apricots, principally to the United Kingdom and Denmark.

The current crop of South African prunes is expected to be very small despite the fact that prune production within the Union has increased steadily in the past few years. Production of dried prunes, which jumped from approximately 1,270 short tons in 1951 to more than 2,900 tons in 1956, is forecast at 1,200 short tons for 1957. Exports of South African dried prunes in 1955 totaled 1,350 tons. Denmark was the principal purchaser with 616 tons followed by West Germany's purchases of 367 short tons.

GROWER PRICES REFLECT AUSTRALIAN FRUIT SHORTAGES

The 1957 minimum canned fruit prices of the Australian Canned Fruit Board for sale to the United Kingdom (published in the February 18 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets) reflect the short supply of most Australian fresh fruits.

The shortage of fresh peaches for canning is illustrated by the fact that recently canners paid \$140 per short ton for clear clingstones, compared with \$90 per ton a year ago. The minimum price for clear clingstones, as determined by the Industry Sugar Concession Committee, is \$112. per ton. Canners are accordingly paying a bonus of approximately \$28 per ton above this price.

Apricot prices, however, are slightly lower due to decreased demand for apricots in the U. K. market. The minimum price for apricots is \$90 per ton, and although bonuses are being offered, they are smaller than those paid for peaches.

NETHERLANDS AGREES TO PURCHASE CZECHOSLOVAK BREWING BARLEY, MALT AND HOPS

In a recent trade agreement covering the list of commodities to be exchanged between the Netherlands and Czechoslovakia during the 12 months period beginning February 1, 1957, the Netherlands committed itself to take a minimum of 3,000 metric tons of Czechoslovak brewing barley, 900 tons of malt and 250 tons of hops.

CANADA'S COTTON CONSUMPTION AT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL

Canada's cotton consumption of 34,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during February 1957 represented a 3 percent increase over the revised consumption of 33,000 bales in January, although at about the same level as the consumption of 34,200 bales in February 1956. Consumption during the 7-month period, August-February 1956-57, amounted to 230,000 bales, or 2 percent less than the 235,000 bales consumed in the same months a year ago.

BURMA'S COTTON CROP ABOVE LAST YEAR

Cotton production in Burma for the August-July 1956-57 marketing season is unofficially estimated at 100,000 bales (500 pounds gross), up 18 percent from the 1955-56 crop of 85,000 bales although considerably lower than the 1954-55 production of 117,000 bales. Acreage for the 1956-57 crop is estimated at 450,000 acres as compared with 405,000 in 1955-56 and 450,000 in 1954-55.

Cotton acreage in Burma is not irrigated and yields are rather low. Yields for the 1956-57 crop were considered about normal, although heavy rains in October damaged some of the crop. Harvest usually extends from early October to the end of December, with picking completed in most areas by the end of November.

Burma's cotton exports during August-July 1955-56 were estimated at 78,000 bales, or about the same as the estimated 76,000 bales for 1954-55. Most of Burma's cotton is exported to Japan, with smaller quantities to China, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, West Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and Italy. Exports during August-December of the current (1956-57) season amounted to 32,000 bales. Comparable data for earlier periods are not available.

Domestic consumption of cotton in Burma amounts to about 22,000 bales per year. Consumption by the one spinning mill is about 10,000 bales annually, and the balance of 12,000 bales is utilized by cottage industries, and in other uses such as blankets and padding. Present capacity of 20,000 spindles and 200 power looms for the Thamaing mill is being doubled by the addition of new facilities, now under construction.

Burma's long range plans call for the construction of 8 more textile mills each with 40,000 spindles and 200 looms. The ultimate goal is to become self-sufficient in cotton yarns and textiles. Plans for the first 4 of these projected mills are included in the new 4-year program, which extends to 1959-60.

Receipts of the P. L. 480 cotton yarn and textiles from the United Kingdom, West Germany, and Japan were nearing completion by the end of February, and those from India were beginning to arrive. The program was considered successful, and continuation of similar arrangements was reported to be under consideration.

Burma's imports of raw cotton are negligible. Stocks of domestic cotton on August 1, 1956, were estimated at 23,000 bales as compared with 37,000 bales held a year earlier.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS IN JANUARY BELOW DECEMBER HIGH

United States cotton exports (all types) in January 1957 amounted to 820,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (running bale figures not yet available), a decline of 16 percent from the December high of 975,000 bales but more than 10 times the quantity of 81,000 bales exported in January a year ago.

Exports during August-January 1956-57 totaled 3,938,000 bales of 500 pounds gross, more than 5 times the 779,000 bales exported in the first 6 months of the 1955-56 season, and 70 percent higher than the total 1955-56 exports of 2,320,000 bales. Sharp increases were registered in exports to nearly all countries, particularly Japan, the United Kingdom, and West Germany. Exports to each of these countries has exceeded a half million bales in the current 6-month period.

Sales of cotton by competitive bid through March 5, 1957, for export from stocks of the Commodity Credit Corporation under the 1956-57 program, amounted to 6,399,694 bales. Sales under the 1957-58 program will begin March 19, 1957, and the two programs will operate simultaneously for the next few months. Shipments under the 1956-57 program must be completed by August 15, 1957. Shipments under the 1957-58 program will not be permitted until after August 15, 1957, and must be made (1) within 9 months after delivery of the warehouse receipts or cotton to the buyer, or (2) by July 31, 1958, whichever is earlier. Bidders must indicate on the offer submitted at the time of bidding whether the cotton is being purchased for export under the current or new program. Transfer of sales from one program to another will not be permitted.

The revised catalogue, dated March 7, 1957, includes the cotton from previous crops (about 400,000 bales) as well as about half of the cotton acquired from the 1955 crop, with no indication of year of growth shown. No announcement has been made with respect to minimum prices under the 1957-58 program. The minimum prices accepted will be announced after each acceptance of bids. The minimum acceptable price on offers opened March 6 was 25.85 cents a pound for Middling 15/16 inch cotton at average location.

Quantitative limitations on exports were not in effect under the 1956-57 program and have not been mentioned in the announcements regarding the 1957-58 program. Both programs permit deliveries against all export sales, including those under Public Law 480, barter, and CCC credit arrangements, and allow substitution of an equal quantity of cotton from private stocks for that purchased from CCC. Bids for cotton under both programs may be submitted to the CCC New Orleans office until 3:45 p.m. Central Standard Time, March 19, and every other Tuesday thereafter.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by country of destination,
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1954 and 1955,
August-January 1955-56 and 1956-57

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)							
Country of destination	Year beginning August 1				August-January		
	Average		1954	1955	1955-56	1956-57	
	1935-39:	1945-49:					
	1,000 bales						
Austria.....	0	1/ 36	15	18	6	25	
Belgium.....	169	131	66	30	2	187	
Denmark.....	33	14	21	3	0	13	
Finland.....	35	21	13	16	15	28	
France.....	662	575	416	178	56	234	
Germany, West.....	511	340	350	74	29	519	
Italy.....	442	489	249	105	26	322	
Netherlands.....	107	131	95	17	1	154	
Norway.....	17	7	12	2/	0	10	
Portugal.....	36	2/	11	5	0	53	
Spain.....	108	69	197	143	82	148	
Sweden.....	115	12	51	10	2	64	
Switzerland.....	11	26	37	14	8	86	
United Kingdom.....	1,346	488	421	153	38	540	
Yugoslavia.....	17	47	103	109	1	2	
Other Europe.....	3/ 276	4/ 159	9	6	3	6	
Total Europe.....	3,885	2,545	2,066	881	269	2,391	
Canada.....	301	275	307	75	38	199	
Cuba.....	11	16	19	11	1	18	
Israel.....	5/	5	20	15	4	6	
Hong Kong.....	5/	35	6	45	2/	32	
India.....	52	86	61	9	2	205	
Indonesia.....	5/	5	27	15	7	17	
Korea, Rep. of.....	5/	6/ 48	170	135	58	124	
Japan.....	1,142	585	678	873	292	738	
Philippines, Rep. of.....	2	4	8	12	7	21	
Taiwan (Formosa).....	5/	1	120	124	50	44	
Bolivia.....	4	2	5	13	4	2/	
Chile.....	9	20	10	14	4	39	
Colombia.....	20	24	2	27	9	23	
French N. Africa.....	5/	4	12	6	1	7	
Australia.....	9	7	52	28	10	36	
Other countries.....	7/ 154	8/ 403	22	37	23	38	
Total 500-lb bales.....	5,589	4,065	3,585	2,320	779	3,938	

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Poland 180, and Czechoslovakia 65. 4/ Includes Poland 69, Czechoslovakia 57, and Greece 21. 5/ If any, included in other countries. 6/ 3-year average. 7/ Includes China 117 and French Indochina 22. 8/ Includes China 401.

U. S. EXPORTS OF AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN
COTTON DECLINE IN JANUARY

United States exports of American-Egyptian cotton amounted to 7,319 bales (500 pounds gross) in January 1957, down slightly from the 11,227 bales exported in December 1956, but maintaining the general level of about 7,000 bales which the exports of this type have averaged so far this season. There were no exports of American-Egyptian cotton in January 1956.

Exports during August-January 1956-57 amounted to 43,095 bales, more than 12 times the exports of 3,323 bales in the comparable 6-month period last year. Principal destinations this year have been Spain, the United Kingdom, Japan, France, and Italy. All exports of American-Egyptian cotton, whether from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks or commercial holdings, have moved at free-market prices. This cotton is not included in the special competitive-bid export program of upland cotton from CCC stocks.

UNITED STATES: Exports of American-Egyptian cotton by
country of destination, annual 1954 and 1955,
August-January 1955-56 and 1956-57

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)					
Country of destination	Year beginning		August-January		
	August 1				
	1954	1955	1955-56	1956-57	
Austria.....	0	0	0	661	
Belgium.....	0	0	0	159	
France.....	103	640	0	3,818	
Germany, West.....	0	169	0	131	
Ireland.....	0	0	0	105	
Italy.....	0	233	0	3,610	
Netherlands.....	0	0	0	34	
Portugal.....	0	0	0	318	
Spain.....	0	15,002	0	15,539	
Sweden.....	0	3	0	211	
Switzerland.....	1,153	272	0	609	
Trieste.....	0	0	0	369	
United Kingdom.....	93	96	0	12,471	
Yugoslavia.....	0	1,315	0	398	
Israel.....	66	1/	0	0	
India.....	0	603	311	531	
Japan.....	0	21	0	4,128	
Pakistan.....	0	3,156	3,012	0	
Other countries.....	0	45	0	3	
Total.....	1,415	21,555	3,323	43,095	

1/ Less than one bale.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of Census.

PHILIPPINE EXPORTS OF
COPRA AND COCONUT OIL DOWN IN FEBRUARY

Philippine copra exports in February declined 6 percent from the previous month while coconut oil exports were down over one-third. Prices in mid-March remained the same as a month earlier.

Combined exports of copra and coconut oil in February, in terms of oil, totaled 56,675 long tons, a decrease of one-tenth from the previous month but an increase of over one-fifth from February 1956. Cumulative shipments of copra and coconut oil during the first 2 months of 1957 were 119,758 tons, oil basis, one-tenth more than the 109,184 tons exported in the corresponding period of 1956.

Copra exports in February, totaling 79,313 long tons, went largely to the United States and the Netherlands. By destination and quantity they were as follows: United States - 23,191 (Atlantic Coast - 4,534, Pacific Coast - 18,657); Canada - 1,000; Colombia - 3,000; Venezuela - 7,200; Denmark - 3,475; Belgium - 1,000; Germany - 5,000; Netherlands - 30,447; Italy - 2,000; Sweden - 3,000. Revised figures for January exports of copra show a total of 84,079 tons of which 31,141 tons went to the United States (Pacific Coast). January-February shipments of 163,392 tons were up 9 percent from the 150,009 tons exported in the first 2 months of 1956.

Coconut oil exports totaled 6,708 long tons in February. Shipments were as follows: United States - 5,581 tons (Atlantic Coast - 5,130, Pacific Coast - 351); Cuba - 345; Netherlands - 472; Germany - 410. Revised figures for January coconut oil exports indicate a corrected total of 10,113 tons of which 6,922 tons went to the United States (Atlantic Coast).

The mid-March copra export price remained at about \$146.00 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific Coast, the same as in mid-February (mid-January \$155.00; mid-December \$155.00). Local buying prices were reported at 23.50 to 26.50 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$119.39 to \$134.63 per long ton) resecada in Manila and producing areas.

KENYA EXPORTING ALFALFA MEAL
TO U.K.

From 800 to 1,000 long tons of alfalfa meal are now being exported by Kenya to the United Kingdom from a new commercial alfalfa meal industry near Lake Naivasha. In addition, about 4,000 tons of alfalfa hay are being sold to European dairy farms in Kenya for feeding during the dry season. A guaranteed minimum of 22 percent protein content is said to have been established for the alfalfa meal, with cutting throughout the year. Gross prices received at Naivasha are said to be \$61.60 per ton for alfalfa meal and \$47.60 per ton for the alfalfa hay. Shipping and marketing charges are deducted from these prices. There is said to be sufficient suitable acreage in the Lake Naivasha area to expand production 3 to 4 times, although production is presently limited to 5 farms.

NORWAY'S FISH OIL PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY IN 1957

Preliminary results from the 1957 fisheries indicate that Norway's 1957 catch of herring will be considerably lower than the record catch of 1956. Bad weather seriously hampered the fishermen throughout the herring season. Preliminary estimates place the 1957 herring oil production at about 72,000 short tons, or approximately two-thirds of the 1956 production.

The herring catch in 1956 was 1,512,500 short tons, somewhat more than the 1,256,300 tons of the previous year. Herring oil output in 1956 was estimated at 115,000 short tons and meal production at 270,000 short tons. About 80 percent of the herring catch last year was processed by the meal and oil industry. In 1955 the industry produced about 80,000 short tons of herring oil and nearly 200,000 tons of herring meal.

Cold cleared cod liver oil production in 1956 was estimated at 7,100 short tons, a sharp increase from the 4,100 tons produced in 1955.

UNITED STATES HONEY TRADE FLUCTUATING

The United States trade in honey has been fluctuating during the last 10 years. In 1947, 1949 and 1950 this country was a net importer of 18,037, 7,751 and 2,585 thousand pounds, respectively. During the other years of this period United States was a net exporter. The net exports in thousand of pounds were 2,932 in 1948; 4,496 in 1950; 14,694 in 1952; 23,065 in 1953; 15,128 in 1954; 10,629 in 1955 and 13,459 in 1956.

Production has varied in a similar manner. The 1948 crop of 206,305 thousand pounds was the lowest of the period while the 1952 crop of 272,641 thousand pounds was the highest. The 1956 crop is the second lowest of the period being only 214,524 thousand pounds. Producer's stocks have not followed the same pattern as they consistently increased from December 15, 1946 to December 15, 1955. Due to the small crop of 1956 the December 15, 1956 stocks were only 49,230 thousand pounds.

Per capita consumption increased from 1.36 pounds in 1947 to 1.73 pounds in 1951 but has steadily decreased to 1.25 pounds in 1956.

Table 1.--UNITED STATES: Honey balance, population and per capita consumption for 1947-56 inclusive

Year	Stocks 1/ 2/	Pro- duction	Imports 3/	Exports	Domestic distri- bution	December 15 stocks 1/	Population excluding overseas armed forces	Per Capita consumption 4/
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Thousands	Pounds
1947	10,787	228,582	19,329	1,292	194,998	62,408	143,446	1.36
1948	62,408	206,305	8,520	11,452	194,919	70,862	146,093	1.33
1949	70,862	226,978	8,963	1,212	222,387	83,204	148,665	1.50
1950	83,204	233,013	12,018	9,433	235,437	83,365	151,234	1.56
1951	83,365	258,116	8,174	12,670	265,569	71,416	153,384	1.73
1952	71,416	272,641	8,483	23,177	252,064	77,299	155,761	1.62
1953	77,299	224,414	9,785	32,850	225,240	53,408	158,313	1.42
1954	53,408	217,084	9,152	24,280	214,308	41,056	161,191	1.33
1955	41,056	253,786	9,856	20,485	226,269	57,944	164,303	1.38
1956	57,944	214,524	4,781	18,240	209,775	49,234	167,191	1.25

1/ Producer's stocks.

2/ Stocks as of December 15 of the previous year.

3/ Excludes shipments from territories.

4/ Based on domestic distribution.

SOURCE: Production - Crop Reporting Board.
Imports and exports - Census.

PUBLICATIONS RELATING TO U.S. FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL TRADE

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